

# EAST BAY LABOR JOURNAL

THE ONLY OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN ALAMEDA COUNTY

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## GE strike rally set Monday

### 1st Upgrade journeymen go to work

Project Upgrade's first student craftsmen have reached journeyman status.

The unique training program was developed by the Alameda County Building Trades Council, in conjunction with the General Specialty Contractors Association, a minority group. It improves the skills of at least 50 per cent proficient minority building tradesmen in an intensive on-the-job training program and six hours a week of related classroom instruction at Laney College.

#### FIRST GRADUATE

Roy Carnegie, 39, of Oakland, was initiated into Plumbers 444 as the first graduate of the project.

Local 444 Secretary and Business Manager George A. Hess noted that Carnegie had six years experience in the plumbing industry before he began his year's Upgrade training.

Carpenters 36 last Monday was to initiate three Project Upgrade graduates, ranging in age from the 20s to late 50s. They are Decota Albright, 59, Berkeley, and Harold Richardson, 39, and Mike Richardson, 27, San Francisco.

Forty-three other craftsmen are in training and there are MORE on page 8

### from the EDITOR'S CHAIR

#### Nothing but good news

A handsome booklet with a color photograph on its cover featuring nicely shaped girls in bikinis romping on a nice clean beach has an eight-page, heavily-illustrated section entitled, "Santa Barbara is alive and well in California! People are flocking to the beaches."

That title is wrapped around and under two color pictures, one showing kids in white surf and the other displaying little sailboats in smooth blue water.

Following those eight pages are another 12 pages detailing various aspects of the big oil blowoff in Santa Barbara Channel with a heavy emphasis on the point that while there once was oil around, all is pretty nice now.

★ ★ ★

THE PUBLISHER is Union Oil Company of California and the publication is the midsummer edition of the house organ it sends to stockholders. It has always impressed me that this book was pretty expensive, as MORE on page 6



AFTER NINE weeks on the picket line, Steelworkers at Kaiser Aluminum's Union City can plant are still determined to gain Bay Area wages and conditions, instead of the Florida-Texas agreement offered by management. Left to right are Jerry Chval and Dave Arca, Steelworkers 7631, negotiating committeemen; Steelworkers Field Representative Ed Stuart, Local 7631 President John Riva and John Frank, No. 1 man in plant seniority. Story on page 8.

### Hospital pact averts strike

In three lengthy last-minute negotiating sessions with the aid of Alameda County and San Francisco Labor Councils, Stationary Engineers 39 last week won a settlement which staved off a possible strike at 19 Bay Area hospitals.

Hospital employee members of the union voted 128 to 29 to accept the settlement at a special meeting last Friday night. They had rejected management's previous offer four days earlier by 137-33.

#### 2 AGREEMENTS

The new agreements are with the Associated Hospitals of San Francisco and the East Bay, effective November 1, and with the Affiliated Hospitals of San Francisco, effective October 1. Both will expire October 1, 1971.

Wages are increased by a \$1.09½ per hour package, 69½ cents the first year to \$5.15 an hour and 40 cents the second year to \$5.55.

The Associated Hospitals agreed to a union shop clause already in effect at the Affiliated Hospitals and the union won the MORE on page 8

### Culinary Board tells strike plan at Mills College

The Joint Executive Board of Culinary Workers, charging that Mills College had failed to keep an agreement, this week withdrew from a representational election and announced plans to strike the college.

The agreement, a Joint Board spokesman said, was that neither side would hold meetings or send letters to the 46 employees who were to vote Tuesday under state Conciliation Service auspices.

But, the board said, workers had received a letter from the college and the college had scheduled a meeting of employees. Mills President Robert J. Wert declined comment. John Cantwell of the United Employers, representing Mills, said the agreement was for no "undue pressure" on employees.

The Joint Board rejoined that the agreement was a flat guarantee of no contact and said a strike is imminent.

### Labor Council urges aid in crucial walkout

A major East Bay meeting in support of the crucial, nationwide strike of 13 unions against General Electric Company will replace the Alameda County Central Labor Council meeting next Monday night, November 17.

William L. Kircher, AFLCIO director of organization, will preside at the meeting to be held in Hall M of the Labor Temple at 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland.

#### VITAL MEETING

This session is "extremely important," CLC Executive Secretary - Treasurer Richard K. Groulx said in a letter to all affiliated unions. He urged attendance of full CLC delegations, officers, executive committeemen and, where appropriate, shop stewards and other active members.

It will be one of more than 20 rallies being held November 17 in support of the 150,000 unionists, including 400 in Alameda County, who walked out October 26 in protest against GE's take-it-or-leave-it offer for a new contract.

Speakers at this week's Central Labor Council meeting warned that the giant GE was fighting to break down coordinated bargaining and had support of the Nixon administration in its pose of refusing union proposals as "inflationary." If GE gets away with its anti-union pitch, delegates agreed, other employers in local and national bargaining will follow suit.

CLC President Russell R. Crowell said the strike was the most important for labor's future since World War II. (Details on page 8).

Emphasizing that "the future of collective bargaining . . . everywhere in America" is at stake, AFLCIO President George Meany called for an "immediate and generous" contribution from all affiliated international unions and \$1 from every AFLCIO member.

It was left up to individual unions to decide how to raise the \$1 per member contribution.

#### COURT RULES

The AFLCIO charge that GE's bargaining methods were a MORE on page 8

### U.S. backs off as Sheet Metal strike set at Post Office

Just two days before Sheet Metal Workers 216 was ready to strike the Post Office distribution center under construction in West Oakland, postal authorities suspended installation of shelving by government employees.

The strike, which would have been Local 216's first against a federal agency, would have put the union in the position of defending private enterprise—supposedly supported by the Nixon administration—against government interference.

The strike was scheduled for Wednesday in protest at use of the government employees but late Monday postal authorities replied to Local 216's requests for talks by telling the union the work by postal employees would be halted pending a legal opinion. Local 216 then held off on its strike deadline.

Business Representative Robert M. Cooper said the work should be given to a contractor employing union members.

The Post Office employees who were doing the job were paid much less than Sheet Metal Workers' union wages, he said, and the work would have kept 10 to 15 union men busy for three months.

"It should be public policy that this type of new construction be handled by private contractors," he said.

Strike sanction was granted MORE on page 5

### Nominations for Labor Man of Year asked

Nominations for the unionist to be honored as Alameda County Labor's Man of the Year for 1969 were asked this week of the labor movement.

AFLCIO Regional Representative Gene DeChristofaro, chairman of the Building Trades Council-Central Labor Council sponsored Man of the Year Dinner Committee, wrote local unions, asking for nominations.

The two councils will hold a \$25 a plate Man of the Year Dinner—with a primary purpose of building financial muscle for Al-

ameda County COPE — Friday, February 13, at Goodman's Hall, Jack London Square, Oakland.

"To stress the total labor movement nature of the affair," DeChristofaro wrote unions, "attendance will be limited to union members and labor attorneys. This will be strictly labor's event and public officials, employers and others outside the labor movement will not be invited."

The two councils' executive committees will select the honoree. DeChristofaro told unions

their nominations must reach the Building Trades Council in time for its December 9 executive committee meeting. MORE on page 8

### OFFICIAL NOTICES

Correspondents columns will be found on pages 4 and 5 of this edition of the Labor Journal. Unions will find notices of important meetings called by their officers on page 6.



# Medicare doctors are raking it in

By **SIDNEY MARGOLIS**  
Consumer Expert for  
Labor Journal

Retired people are going to be hit again by increases in both Medicare doctor-bill insurance and the "deductible" they pay for hospital care. This will be the third rise in Medicare's three and a half years.

The increases will be a blow to older people already besieged by living costs hikes. The Medicare fee for Part B doctor insurance is expected to rise about \$5.20 a month (\$10.40 for a couple) on July 1, 1970. The present rate is \$4. The rate when Medicare went into effect in 1966 was \$3. The jump from \$3 to \$5.20 is an increase of 73 per cent.

Beneficiaries who are hospitalized also will find they have to pay more. Medicare Part A now pays all but the first \$44 of the hospital bill in each spell of illness, the "deductible" representing the average cost of one day in the hospital. On January 1, the "deductible" jumps to \$52, up 30 per cent from the original \$40 "deductible."

**MOREOVER**, beneficiaries hospitalized more than 60 days will have to pay \$13 a day for the 61st through 90th day, up from the present \$11 and the original \$10. Those who need post-hospital "extended care" or over 20 days will have to pay \$6.50 a

day, up from the present \$5.50 and original \$5.00.

Behind the sharp increases is a scandalous loophole in the Medicare law which has permitted the doctors themselves to be the judge and jury of what are "reasonable and prevailing" fees.

Under Medicare Part B doctor-bill insurance, after the first \$50 a year of doctor bills Medicare will pay 80 per cent of so-called "reasonable" or "prevailing" charges.

But the law also established intermediaries, called "carriers," who handle the bills for the Government, and decide what is "reasonable" or "prevailing." The carriers in most states are the Blue Shield organizations.

Blue Shield is the creature of the local doctors. They organized and operate the various Blue Shield plans. In the six months before Medicare went into effect, doctors started raising rates to older patients, claiming they had been giving special low rates to many.

**THUS**, when Medicare did become effective, the "prevailing" rates in various parts of the country already were at a higher level.

But successive fee hikes then kept pushing up the "prevailing rates" in various regions.

Under Medicare, doctor fees

for older people, as gauged by the Medicare Part B rates, have gone up far more for the population as a whole.

For the population as a whole, Bureau of Labor Statistics data show, doctor fees went up 22 per cent in a little over three years since the spring of 1966. But the pending new rate for Medicare doctor-bill insurance represents an increase of 73 per cent.

This also is far greater than the 20 per cent national average increase in dentist fees in that period of approximately three years, and even the 61 per cent jump in hospital charges.

**MEDICARE** beneficiaries not only pay a higher premium for the insurance but have to pay more for the co-insurance on Part B. The law requires the beneficiary to pay 20 per cent of the bill, and Medicare pays the rest (if the bill is considered reasonable).

Twenty per cent of a \$6 charge for an office visit is \$1.20. When the charge goes up to \$10, the patient now pays \$2. Similarly, 20 per cent of a \$200 bill for a cataract operation is \$40. When the prevailing fee rises to \$300, the patient pays \$60.

At first the government tended to handle the doctors with kid gloves. For one reason, the government has been anxious to get doctors to accept "assign-

ments" of claims for reimbursement rather than make the patient pay and do his own collecting. The doctor has the choice of billing the government or the patient.

**CONGRESS**, in its infinite lack of wisdom, in passing Medicare had stressed that there was to be a minimum amount of government supervision and the maximum use of "third parties" to determine the rates of payment and handle the bills.

The "third party" supposed to supervise the rates turns out to be the providers of the services themselves, the doctors, through Blue Shield.

Now both Congress and the Administration have become alarmed at the extent of the increases in fees. Both the Senate Finance Committee and Senator Harrison Williams (D., N.J.), chairman of the Senate Committee on the Aging, voiced concern. Last year the Administration wrote to doctors all over the country urging restraint. It also instructed the intermediaries not to raise the prevailing range in their regions without prior approval. No such approval has been granted since last February.

The Administration at least has got more doctors to accept assignments from patients, rather than making them pay and

collecting on their own. A doctor can charge any fee he wants. He doesn't have to accept the Medicare rate. Two years ago only about 50 per cent of doctors accepted assignments, requiring them to accept the prevailing rate. Now, about 69 per cent do. Of course, it is easier to get doctors to accept assignments when the prevailing rates are much higher.

**THUS**, WHILE all retirees now will pay more, at least there should be fewer instances of very high charges by doctors who refuse to accept assignments. New York State Senator Seymour Thaler last year reported a \$1,000 fee for a prostrate operation. The usual and customary fee was \$300. So the patient has to pay \$60 as his 20 per cent of the allowed reimbursement, plus the additional \$700 that the doctor charged, or a total of \$760.

Our advice is to continue in Medicare Part B even at the higher rates. The solution to restraining any further fee increases now is up to the Administration and Congress. Even if inflated, half the actual cost of providing this insurance is paid by the government. Part B insurance at least still is a protection against very expensive medical disasters.

(Copyright 1969)

## Reagan's PUC and 'Junkyards in sky'

Telephone and power utilities are big companies with considerable funds but they don't like the idea of being forced to put their unsightly wires underground in all new developments.

Last week, Governor Reagan's four-man majority on the state Public Utilities Commission backtracked on the PUC's original proposal to do away with power poles by putting the lines underground.

Said A. W. Gatov, only remaining PUC appointee of former Governor Brown:

"Because the decision of the majority fails to do something imaginative and forward-looking about undergrounding in new commercial and industrial construction and eliminating the existing visual blight which the junkyards in the sky have created, the long-term efforts of the commission have come to nothing."

As originally proposed, the PUC action would have been to direct that utility lines be put underground in new residential, commercial and industrial subdivisions. It also would have forced utilities to put lines un-

derground whenever they are relocated.

But the order, approved 4 to 1 by the PUC, requires undergrounding only in residential tracts. It says that lines need not be buried when relocated but could be undergrounded along with others at a slower pace.

Utility lines in most residential subdivisions already are being undergrounded, Gatov said.

Telephone companies said that the proposal for underground lines in all types of subdivisions would cost subscribers \$5.50 a month and Southern California Edison had said that it would cost it a staggering \$41,000,000 a year for 20 years.

Gatov only asked that these claims be investigated before action was taken.

### Best friend

One of your best friends, if you're a gardener, is the polka-dotted ladybug which eats as many as 50 plant destroying aphids a day. They're sold in cold storage to farmers who turn them loose in the fields. A quart of ladybugs ate 10,000,000 aphids in a Maryland farm.

## Metro Pants boycott asked

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers are asking consumers not to buy products of the Metro Pants Company, charging the firm is fighting union organizing at its plants in Virginia.

ACW's Union Label Department noted that Metro had brought out a new "Peace Jeans" line, seeking to appeal to young anti-war sentiment. But, said West Coast ACW Union Label Director Anne Draper, student peace advocates don't want any part of the "Peace Jeans."

## Spare that weed

Dandelions are more than a lawn pest, says Dr. Larry W. Mitich of North Dakota State University. If you know how, he says, you may make a coffee substitute from its dried and ground roots, use the leaves for beer, jelly, soup, omelets and sandwiches and make wine from the flowers. Besides, livestock get nutrition from the weed.

## Sound advice

With a straight face, the East Bay Chapter of the National Safety Council advised in a recent edition of its publication that because home injuries outnumber traffic injuries you may avoid smashing your thumb with the hammer by holding it with both hands or getting your wife to hold the nail.

Look for the union shop card, ask for a union clerk to serve you, and demand the union label!

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## Getting Your Money's Worth

Six electric hot plates have been rated Not Acceptable by Consumers Union, the nonprofit product-testing and consumer advisory organization.

One of the six—the Liberty 4S2—presents a heat hazard, CU says in the November issue of its publication, **Consumer Reports**. "After we had left both its burners at high for a while, the controls grew too hot to handle comfortably," the report says. "Other easily touched parts of the stove hit a searing 300 degrees F."

Another Liberty hot plate, the 7T2, was rated Not Acceptable, says the consumer organization, because both of the samples it purchased exhibited "dangerously high electrical current leakage."

**FOUR OTHERS** contain open-coil heating elements, which is a hazard in the opinion of CU. They are the Dominion 1455, the Knapp-Monarch 14-515, the Sears Kenmore Cat. No. 6808 and the Toastmaster 6402.

Concerning the open-coil elements, the report says:

"When the hot plate is in use it would be all too easy to touch these coils accidentally, with a metal spoon or fork, say, and all too easy for a metal bottomed pot or pan to touch coils that might work out of the grooves. If you were touching the fork or the pan and a ground at the

same time, you might get a lethal electric shock."

All but one of the open-coil models CU tested are listed by Underwriters' Laboratories, but a spokesman for UL told CU that his organization will stop listing such appliances soon.

The report says that the Knapp-Monarch 14-515 has been discontinued, according to the manufacturer, but may still be available in some stores.

**IF YOU'RE** planning to buy a set of that nearly-unbreakable dinnerware made of plastic, be particularly alert for defects, advises Consumers Union.

The nonprofit product-testing organization evaluated 40 sets of melamine dinnerware for the November issue of **Consumer Reports**. While three sets were rated highly, the article reported on the majority of the remaining ones:

"Our testers found scuffs, scratches, dents, cracks, chalking, pinholes and pits, blisters and wrinkles, chips, dull spots, and surfaces like orange peel."

But plastic dinnerware, the report adds, has been notably improved in its ability to resist permanent coffee and tea stains.

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## BOOST THE LABEL

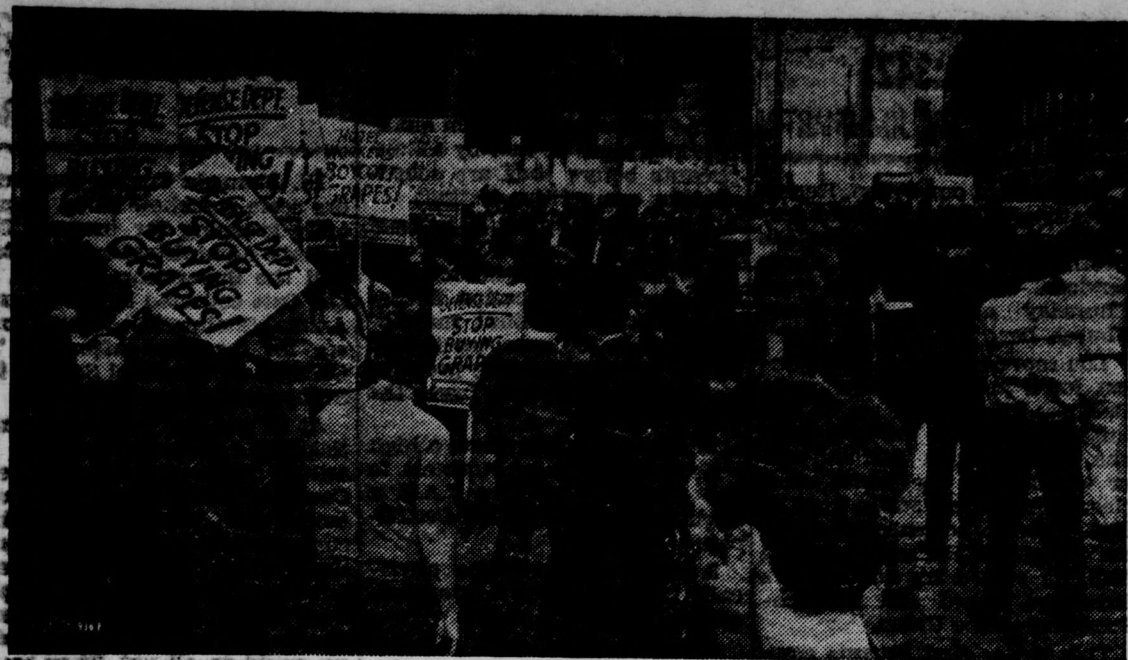
BUY UNION LABEL PRODUCTS ONLY

When making purchases, always ask for the union label. If building a home or repairing one, see that the men doing the plumbing or steamfitting work, painting, etc., belong to the union. Ask to see their Card. Boost the union emblem and help yourself.

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**PICKETS THROUGH** the sidewalk outside U.S. Defense Department offices in New York, protesting the department's heavy purchase of unfair California table grapes. United Farm

Workers Organizing Committee is continuing its nationwide boycott of California table grapes until growers bargain with union representatives of the workers.

## She's thoroughly competent so you decided to fire her?

The Oakland Recreation Commission agreed with black community and labor spokesmen that there's something inconsistent about rating an employee thoroughly competent as a supervisor and then firing her as needing improvement in knowledge, work habits, individual relationship, attitude and personal fitness.

So Bobbie Watson, who had been fired by the Recreation Department as senior recreation leader at Campbell Village, was reinstated without losing a payday.

Alameda County Central Labor Council Assistant Secretary Ed Collins told the commission that he thought the reason for her discharge was that she was

a leader in employee organizing into State, County & Municipal Employees 1675.

Miss Watson had been with the department for two and one-half years but was a probationary employee as a senior recreation leader when the inconsistent evaluation was made.

Black community spokesmen told the commission that she was a very good leader and had successfully organized activities which kept children off the streets and out of trouble—a primary aim of the recreation program.

Her rating also classified her as thoroughly competent in the skills she needs for her job.

## Moore, Airola to speak at job accident session

The fate of workers injured in industrial accidents will be discussed at a daylong conference sponsored by two state agencies at the Kaiser Center auditorium in Oakland November 20.

Speakers will include Leslie K. Moore, business representative of Auto & Ship Painters 1176; Lowell A. Airola, an associate of California Labor Federation Counsel Charles P. Scully, and representatives of industry, medical professions and state government.

The panel will zero in on how to help the worker return to work as soon as possible, including retraining injured men for new jobs.

Subjects will include continued employment of the injured worker, union responsibility to injured members, and rehabilitation versus litigation.

The conference is sponsored by the state Departments of Rehabilitation and Industrial Relations.

Those interested were invited to attend the sessions which run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., November 20.

Moore this week asked Alameda County Central Labor Council delegates to furnish him case histories and data on problems of obtaining Industrial Accident Commission aid to industrially ill or injured workers in view of employer and insurance company attitudes.

## Party November 19 to honor Petris

A cocktail party to honor Democratic State Senator Nicholas C. Petris will be held next Wednesday, Nov. 19 at the Blue Dolphin at the foot of Marina Boulevard in San Leandro.

The informal party is open to the public at \$10 per person. The affair will run from 5 to 8 p.m. on November 19.

## Union role subject of Sunday telecast

The role of unions in the next decade will be discussed in an NBC-TV broadcast next Sunday night, November 16, on "The Challenge of the 70s to Labor."

KRON-TV, Channel 4, will carry the program at 9:30 p.m. It is this year's television production of the George Meany Foundation, and will be incorporated in the Eternal Light Series presented weekly by the network.

Tell 'em you saw it in the East Bay Labor Journal!

## New minority job emphasis; 'Philadelphia Plan' threat

The Human Resources Development Institute is switching its emphasis to place heavy emphasis on unions devising training and job opportunities for the hardcore minority unemployed through federal manpower programs.

This word was brought back by Bill Burks, HRDI area manpower representative, from a five-day conference in Chicago of the AFLCIO sponsored nationwide equal opportunities organization.

**SWITCH EMPHASIS**  
Reliance previously has been primarily on management initiative.

The new approach calls for unions to utilize federally funded programs to develop new personnel for their own staffs and to use their expertise to devise training programs and convince management to create new job slots.

Organized labor in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties is far ahead in integrating minorities, he said, but some unions must "take longer and faster strides" to prevent a possible "Philadelphia Plan" situation in the East Bay.

The Philadelphia Plan is the Nixon administration prescription for fixed percentage quotas

## Acorn residents vie for rent cut

Ten per cent reductions were awarded this month to members of the Acorn Residents Council living in the sharpest looking of eight neighborhoods of the Oakland Acorn apartment and townhouse development of West Oakland.

The competition at the Alameda County Building Trades Council sponsored development will be a monthly affair. Award winners are selected by a five-member committee from among eight arbitrary divisions classified as neighborhoods.

Winners must be paid up members of the residents council and their rent must be current.

Council member Warren Freeman said selection is made on physical appearance of homes and grounds and the "residents' community spirit and involvement."

A management spokesman said improved care by residents is expected to reduce maintenance costs and help pay for the awards.

The judging committee includes three members of the council, one management and one maintenance representative.

for integrating minority workers in the building trades industry.

Burks noted that "a definite attitude exists on Capitol hill for the Nixon administration to embarrass labor and to try to weaken the construction trades."

He urged unions to take advantage now of available federal financing for training hardcore unemployed and for advancing the skills of minority workers.

Burks said HRDI will assist unions in developing programs to fit their own needs and channeling them to the right federal agency for subsidizing the extra cost.

## Zellerbach strike talks set

New negotiating sessions were scheduled as a strike of Printing Specialties 678 went into its second week against Crown Zellerbach Corporation's Flexible Packaging Division plant at San Leandro.

A mailed company offer for a new agreement was unanimously rejected by the 140 employees last Saturday.

The same meeting instructed negotiators, before talking money, to arrive at contract language recognizing the right of members not to cross sanctioned picket lines.

"This is a real issue," said Frederick T. Sullivan, secretary-treasurer of Printing Specialties District Council 5. "It's really uniting our people."

He said the mailed offer, regarded as "the same old package

dressed up in new clothes," was also rejected by four other locals on the West Coast, none of which is on strike or confronted with the picket line issue.

They represent workers at Zellerbach plants in Los Angeles and Portland, and Pollock Paper Company operations in San Jose and Seattle.

Other issues, involving all five locals, involve wages, contract duration, holidays, vacation, shift differential and health and welfare.

The union asked a 10 per cent across the board increase in a short term contract. The company offered wage increases varying from 20 cents to 35 cents an hour in a three year pact.

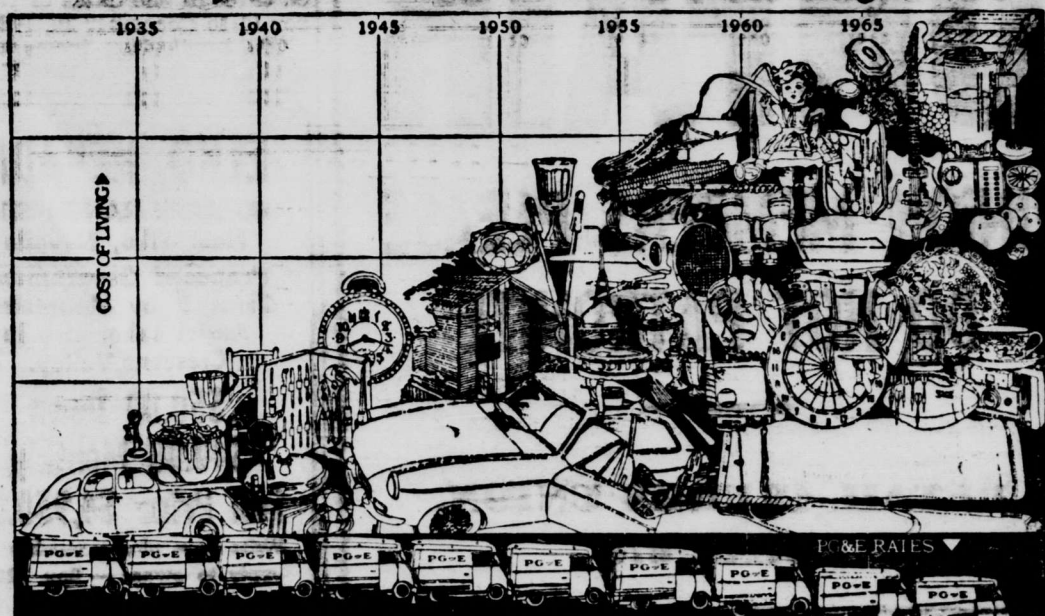
Sullivan said the union's wage proposals amounted to raises of 30 to 43 cents an hour.

Since 1935, the cost of living has gone up 183% but typical PG&E gas and electric rates are down 13.9%. Even with the gas rate increase we've had to request, a typical gas and electric customer would get more for his money than he would have 34 years ago.

Naturally your PG&E bill is higher now than it used to be, simply because you use more gas and electricity. More energy to run freezers, dryers, washers, TV, better heating and lighting... all the comforts of modern living.



## Cost of living, up 183%. PG&E rates, down 13.9%. That says it.





## Chips and Chatter

BY GUNNAR (BENNY) BENONYS

The frog-feed at the Albany Masonic Lodge, put on by Bill Evans (he furnished and cooked them, all 120 pounds) and Elwood Wallace and his hard working committee members, was a huge success! It was a really delicious meal. Representing Local 36 were Brothers Harold Griffiths, Wilfred Campbell, and me too. Don't miss the next one. Li'll GeeGee, the office vamp says a woman with horse sense never becomes a nag!

Uncle Benny comments, You're getting older if you can remember when: Sailors were the only ones who wore bell-bottom trousers; a joint was a speakeasy and not a stick of marijuana; teachers were the most respected members of the community!

Lloyd Sawdy's daughter, Lois Irene Sawdy is now serving in the Army WAC's as a PFC at Fort Knox, Kentucky, in the office administration section.

All carpenters who have sons or daughters in high schools as seniors should be aware of the many fine scholarships that are available to them.

The California Labor Federation and its affiliates each year make presentations of 26 monetary awards to help finance college costs. Be sure to contact the high school for more information.

On our sick and injured list are: L. H. Bollinger due to disability; Sammie Hampton had a foot amputated; Ralph Passarella, still recovering from a fall off a scaffold; Chris Bitz, is in Yakima, Washington, suffers from arthritis. Brother Terry Moore, apprentice, has entered the Armed Forces.

Our deepest sympathies to the families of the following Brothers, who were called by The Master Carpenter: Willard O. Baker, O. A. Bentzger, Harold Graham, and Hans P. Nerheim. Marie Davis, wife of H. O. Davis passed away. Deonell S. Moore, six-year old son of Brother Donel Moore passed away. Brother William Lodge reports that his wife was badly injured while crossing the street. He managed to jump out of the way. Art Gehl is at Lakeshore Convalescent Hospital, 1901 3rd Avenue, Oakland. He would like some visitors.

Now is the time for you to do YOUR bit! Your Congressman and your Senator need your help to offset the tremendous pressures of the special interest lobbyists who daily are contacting them on the proposed Tax Reform Bill now pending that will be placed on the Senate floor for action within two or three weeks.

Write them a post card or letter, tell them that you want their votes to support the changes to allow for a more fair tax set up. Certainly the loop-set is on their toes to protect their special unfair tax allowances, and you know who has to make up the difference, you and your family! Tell them you WANT TAX REFORM and you want it NOW.

Are you a reader of this column? Readers REWARD will start in January. All Carpenter readers of this column are eligible. Nothing to buy or do other than: send in a postcard with your name, address, city, Local union number, social security number and phone number. Address post cards, READERS REWARD, Uncle Benny, 8460 Enterprise Way, Oakland, Calif. 94621. Let's have a little fun along with our communicating via the column. More on this later. Get your post cards in now.

Cousin Alfredo says men who talk like big wheels are merely spokes-men.

See you at YOUR next union meeting, Brother?

## Typographical Auxiliary

BY ELIZABETH FEE

The Women's Auxiliary No. 26 business meeting will be on November 18 at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Gwen Frates, president, 1325 147th Avenue, San Leandro. Voting on propositions passed at the convention is on the agenda.

A pot luck luncheon will be served after the meeting.

Mary Farley had a cut-and-treat party at her home to help the handicapped at the Cerebral palsy center.

Betty Bowdish won nine awards for her hand-painted china at the Alameda County Fair at Pleasanton.

Our baked ham dinner was well attended and we received words of praise for our culinary art.

Our sincere sympathy to the Rankin family in the sudden death of Bill Rankin.

Also our sympathy to the Nelson family in the passing of their mother and a member of the Auxiliary.

Union labelled Christmas cards and union made candy are available. Phone 526-8423.

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## Steamfitters 342

BY JIM MARTIN

Members of our Union, Representatives of Labor and Management, paid their final respects to Brother Lou Kovacevich, whose services were held this past Thursday at St. Augustine's Church here in Oakland.

Lou represented our Local Union for a period of 20 years as Business Representative. He was initiated by Local Union 6, Winona, Minnesota, in 1943, and after working in the Texas area, cleared into Local 342 in April of 1944. Prior to becoming the Union's Business Representative in 1948, he served on our Union's Executive Board and as Vice-President of the Union.

This writer first became associated with Lou when we worked with the tools on Fluor Corporation's Dry Ice Project in Berkeley. This was in 1946, and we used to eat lunch together in my 1937 Plymouth. Lou had a 1939 model. Our conversation would, among other items, cover our Local Union's Labor Contract, which at that time did not contain any Pension, Health and Welfare Plan, Apprenticeship Training, travel time or subsistence. If I remember right, the wage scale at that time was approximately \$1.75 or \$1.87½ per hour. How times have changed.

Lou always had a keen interest in the Labor Movement, and the up-grading of our Union's contracts, and his interest finally led to his becoming an Officer and finally the Union's Business Representative covering a 20 year period.

Lou also represented our Local Union at the various Conventions and was always a Delegate to our National United Association Conventions, throughout the years.

He also served as the Secretary for our Local Union's Joint Board of Trustees and the Secretary for the Negotiating Committee, etc.

The Union's Officers along with other Officials of Labor and Management, join with the membership of Local 342 in conveying to his family and loved ones our sympathy and condolences in the passing of Brother Lou Kovacevich.

Mrs. Lillian Kovacevich, on behalf of her family and relatives, wishes to thank the officers and membership of our local union and Lou's many friends representing both labor and management for their kindness, flowers, cards and attendance at Lou's funeral services held this past November 6.

The regular membership meeting scheduled for November 6, 1969, was cancelled in tribute to Lou, and rescheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 1969, in Hall M of the Labor Temple.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Steamfitters Local Union 342, Joint Apprenticeship Committee, wishes to announce that applications for Refrigeration Apprenticeship Training will be accepted through the dates of November 17 to December 19, 1969.

The application forms will be available only at the Union's

Business Office, 2315 Valdez St., Oakland, California, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The following minimum qualifications must be met by all applicants before they are scheduled for competitive testing:

1. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and must not have passed their 26th birthday when making application. Exception to the age limit may be made, year for year, up to two years, upon submitting proof of honorable discharge from the Armed Services.

2. Applicants must have a high school education and submit to the Secretary of the J.A.C. a High School Completion Certificate.

3. Applicants must be physically fit to perform all work required within the trade.

4. Applications shall be rejected for those applicants who do not meet the above qualifications.

We wish to call to your attention that the above procedure pertains to all applicants, including sons of members of the Union, relatives, friends, etc.

## AFSCME 371 'Info'

BY NAT DICKERSON

It was perhaps very disappointing to many that no meetings were held last Saturday, as was previously announced.

This is the first time in the memory of this writer and perhaps in that of others when a meeting was not held at the appointed time; for which the Executive Committee extends apologies.

A memo was issued to, we hope, most buildings and areas, stating reasons for postponing the meetings; we wish to further clarify the matter, here.

Among matters of gravity and importance preventing the meetings were two of special significance.

First was President Scalzo's having to leave for New Mexico, because of the critical state of his daughter's illness.

Second was the necessary presence of Service Representative McLane at a Democratic Conference in Fresno.

It is not to be construed that either of these brothers are indispensable for conducting the Local's affairs, as they both would agree that a high degree of competence keynotes the roles of all our officers.

But the fact remains that at this most critical period, only they are in possession of certain important information which should have been made last Saturday's meetings of any pertinence.

We do hope matters will develop to a stage soon or warranting expedition of the Special Called Meeting, as promised.

We are especially grieved to witness further tragic elements cast into the lives of our distinguished president and his lovely wife, as he is yet disabled from illness and a prior operation.

Additions to the Sick List are as follows: Brothers W. F. Hanson, 25890 Bryn Mawr Ave., Hayward, and James Walker, 1638 Woolsey Street, Berkeley. Please relay greetings to them; whether or not others have returned to work we do not know, as yet.

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## Steel Machinists 1304

BY DAVE ARCA

Hi. Alameda County Supervisors seem somehow to be ghoulishly grasping for income. The County Administrator suggested, and the Supervisors decided, to sell Cats collected by the County Animal Shelter. Not to new owners for love and affection. To Colleges and Medical Schools for Study and Dissection.

At \$2 per cat, Supervisors anticipate additional income. If selling cats will supplement County income, dogs can add more. Then, if dog cadavers become lucrative, why stop there? Supervisors could incorporate into merchandising stray people. You know, unclaimed corpses. Shucks, real aggressive Supervisors could go all out. They could cull out the Aged, the Ill, the Lame, and the Retarded. These too have certain value for dissecting and study.

If cats are worth \$2 each, larger animals could wholesale by the pound. A big dog, or larger person, could be worth their weight in pennies.

In the beginning we were facetious. Suddenly, we're not sure. Automobiles began as novelties. Today, autos are indispensable for local transportation. Even despite killing and maiming more people, than all other Wars. Even while autos corrupt the very air we breathe. The Auto is necessary to Society for Profit. That's the point.

Besides profit for Big Business, autos provide income for working people. But, mainly, the significance of autos is money.

Relate this to selling cats. Then, project profits to selling dogs. Then, speculate about selling unwanted people. The potential is apparent.

Supervisors have a thing about dependent people on welfare. If welfare costs can be reduced, and profit realized from unclaimed, unwanted, and unprotected people, who's to say someone won't want them to go the way of unwanted cats? We hope not. But, who can say for sure? You? Okay.

## Watchmakers 101

BY GEORGE F. ALLEN

We have been sitting with our Insurance Broker all week in an attempt to reach some sort of agreement on our insurance coverage for those members who have chosen to be covered under our Group Insurance Plan.

We know there will be an increase in costs, however, we are in the bargaining stage.

Will advise you of the outcome as soon as we have reached agreement and all members will be notified by letter on any and all changes in their particular coverage, whether it be Kaiser Foundation Health Service Plan or Group Insurance.

**SAN FRANCISCO MEETING:** The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20, 1969 at 7:30 p.m.—Union Office, 693 Mission St., Room 707, San Francisco.

## Steelworkers win

The Steelworkers won four National Labor Relations Board elections involving 3,000 workers in a six-day October period. The elections were in Collierville, Tenn.; Ambridge, Pa.; Worcester, Mass., and Danville, Pa.

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## Retail Clerks Local 870

BY CHARLES F. JONES

With Thanksgiving just a matter of days away, your executive committee felt that perhaps some members of Local 870 had very little to look forward to other than a bleak holiday as a result of illness or personal financial hardship. Consequently your officers have been authorized to provide Thanksgiving baskets to those needy members who, unless given assistance, would have very little to be joyous about. The baskets will insure a good dinner.

If you need assistance as mentioned above, visit the Union office no later than Thursday, November 20 to request a Thanksgiving basket. All requests will be screened by a committee to insure that only those members who really need the assistance receive the same.

## Millmen's 550

BY ARSIE BIGBY

Several shops have laid off men in the last two weeks, and we are told that we can expect bigger layoffs in the near future. Laid off workers should register with the Union, immediately after being laid off, and continue to register each week thereafter for as long as they remain unemployed, so that you won't encounter any difficulties in drawing Unemployment Insurance while you are off work No. 1, and No. 2, the Union will be able to reach you should we receive calls for new hires elsewhere.

The call for men has slowed down to practically nothing, and in all probability our out of work list will start to build up considerably from now on. I believe we are coming into a slump at this time, brought about by the diminished demand for new construction permits over the last few months. With the supply of money being controlled from Washington, contractors are not able to plan ahead, to get foundations, streets, etc., in before the rainy season sets in the way they have generally done in the past. As a result of that, I think we can expect the work picture to be pretty tight around December, January and perhaps until Spring, depending on the availability of money, and the amount of winter rainfall we get.

I read recently where the President is considering moving to have money for construction made available, and I suppose it is not impossible to believe that he might do so. I read also where Barry Goldwater is inquiring of the practicality of legalizing narcotics and for a guy with his general hard nosed approach to most everything to consider moving in that direction on narcotics with that liberal generosity on his part may rub off on some of his conservative party affiliates, to the point they may loosen the purse strings for some construction money.

## Barbers 134

BY JACK M. REED

Brothers, I have received official notification from the International that Robert Verdina has been declared the winner of the election for ninth vice-president. It seems that a block of votes were not counted because although the members were paid and in good standing, the local secretary was late or behind in forwarding their per capita tax to the International. So the machine continues to function without any new blood or any new progression. Also was informed that two of the largest invest-

ment brokers have been retained to handle our pension investments. I wonder what took them so long, which only proves again that a barber is a barber is a barber.

I have had some complaints on Vision-Care. It seems they try to oversell and tack on extras. About 80 of our members have used this service to date. Your executive board would like to have some opinions from the membership on the actual value of this service and whether to continue. Call or drop me a card on your opinion.

Our Kaiser and Blue Cross health plans are now open for application (this month only) for service starting January 1, 1970.

Nominations for officers for 1970 will be held on Thursday night, November 20. If you wish to run for office, come to the meeting wearing five union labels and have someone nominate you.

Several brothers are out of work and in need of full time, part time or Saturday jobs. Call the office.

## Sheet Metal Workers 216

BY ROBERT M. COOPER

First we will try to get through the bad news before more comes along.

Ed Robertson, foreman for F. B. Gardner, had to cut short his out-of-state hunting trip to spend a few days in a Colorado hospital. He expects to be back on the job in a few days.

Speaking of hunting, Evio Bucciarelli also hunted in Colorado and the "great white hunter" bagged an elk and other big game.

Pete Myers has been off work for sometime due to illness and Mel Stanley is also on the sick list.

Did you read the October issue of the Sheet Metal Workers' Journal? There is a lot of good information, especially in the column of the General President and Secretary-Treasurer where they reiterate our position on initiating minorities. They don't care what color the person is as long as he is qualified. We will not lower our standards.

They also refute a lot of bad information that the building trades are to blame for not helping the black man reach equal status.

Everybody is trying to blame the minority problem and inflation onto the building trades unions while their own doorstep is all cluttered up.

Look over the P.A.L. chart on Page 17 and you will notice Local 216 is one of the four California Locals mentioned in the top 30.

Our per capita to P.A.L. is second in California with an average of 25 cents per member.

## Wholesale prices keep on climbing

Presaging continued cost of living rises despite the Nixon policies of slowing down the economy to halt inflation, wholesale prices rose around three-tenths of 1 per cent in October, the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics disclosed.

Industrial commodities rose four-tenths of 1 per cent, with a significant assist from higher automobile prices. Other commodities which cost more included tires, metals and metal products, clothing, lumber and wood products. A rise in processed food prices more than offset a drop in prices for farm products.

## Yule Fete set for Carmen's children

A Christmas party for 2 to 10 year old children of members of Carmen's Division 192 has been scheduled for December 14.

The division predicts around 800 children will show up for the affair, which will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on December 14 in Cooks' Hall at 1608 Webster Street, San Francisco.

The union promised that Santa Claus and his helpers would be there to pass out gifts, plus bags of candy from the union officers — President Ed Cordeiro, Business Agents George Garcia and Jim Thomas, and Secretary-Treasurer Matt McClure.

This is not real good but we have also sent more than they give us credit for. We will be sending in another batch of money next week.

So thanks very much to you who have participated. We are still hoping the rest of you will see it clear to send at least \$1. I don't believe this is asking too much for this worthy cause.

The job situation is not real good as we are staying around the 100 mark of unemployed. The next two months are full of holidays, so it probably will not improve too much until the new year.

Regular union meetings are every third Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Labor Temple, Oakland. Everybody bring another member to the next meeting and we will still have room to seat you.

Members of the Tri-State Council Death Benefit Plan please note that Death Assessment No. 659 is now due and payable.

**DON'T BUY** Good Housekeeping or any other Hearst publication. Hearst hires scabs in Los Angeles.

## Murphy veto measure on legal service to poor opposed

California Republican Senator George Murphy's amendment which would give state governors power to veto anti-poverty level service programs should be defeated, the Alameda County Central Labor Council declared.

Speakers noted that California Rural Legal Assistance, an anti-poverty agency, handled the suit which forced Governor Reagan to rescind his huge cuts in Medi-Cal services to the poor. Had the Murphy amendment been in force, they said, CRLA could have been prevented from pressing the case.

California's Congressional delegation this week got a strong appeal from the California Labor Federation to vote against the Murphy amendment as a "destructive measure."

CRLA is an "incorruptible defense force" for the poor, Federation Secretary Thomas L. Pitts wrote, pointing out that the legal assistance organization "has already written significant social history . . ."

"The Senator Murphy amendment to the Office of Economic Opportunity Authorization bill directs the power of the American government against the interests of the American poor."

Murphy's amendment to the Office of Economic Opportunity appropriation bill would permit governors to veto OEO legal services programs or to prescribe what type of service they may render. It has passed the Senate by a narrow margin and is up to the House.

Dave Aroner of Social Workers 535, who moved the Labor Council action, predicted that reactionary Republican governors like Reagan and fascist Southern governors would utilize the amendment's powers if it were passed.

The council voted to contact AFLCIO legislative representatives in Washington and ask them to contact legislators, including the California delegation, and urge them to oppose the Murphy veto amendment.

## No change in jobless picture

September's upsurge in joblessness, which a Nixon administration spokesman said indicated progress against inflation, failed to recede noticeably in October.

The seasonally adjusted jobless rate nationwide was 3.9 per cent, contrasted to September's 4 per cent. The September figure represented the biggest monthly jump in joblessness in nine years — one-half of 1 per cent to the 4 per cent figure.

And the apparent tiny jump in October may not mean anything. A federal Bureau of Labor Statistics spokesman said such a small change is not statistically significant in face of possible error in assembling data and possible random fluctuations.

When the big September jump was disclosed, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Murray L. Weidenbaum, said it looked like progress in the administration's efforts to cool off the economy and could signify a retreat from the former "over employed condition."

Further evidence that the Nixon cooling off process was proceeding—though with no significant signs of lower prices—was a nationwide reduction in the seasonally adjusted average work week from 37.8 to 37.5 hours. The drop affected every type of employment except real estate, finance and insurance.

Employment continues to rise, reaching a nationwide record of 70,700,000. But, the BLS disclosed

that jobs have increased by only a 93,000 monthly average for the last six months compared to a 234,000 average the previous six months—further evidence of the economy's slowdown.

Non-white workers suffered a 6.9 per cent jobless rate, up from September's 6.8 while the white unemployment rate slid very slightly to 3.5 per cent from 3.6.

## Postal strike set; U.S. backs off

Continued from page 1

last week by the Alameda County Building Trades Council. Local 216 said it expected all other union craftsmen on the project to respect picket lines if they had been posted.

Look for the union shop card, ask for a union clerk to serve you, and demand the union label!



### THE GARDENS OF MOUNTAIN VIEW . . .

Here amid the everchanging color of the season's flowers and trees, visitors appreciate the quiet, green haven that is *Mountain View Cemetery*. For over a hundred years, Mountain View's substantial endowment care fund has provided a scene of beauty in which the departed are honored in settings left to individual choice. Ground burial, cremation, indoor and outdoor crypts are all available.

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# OFFICIAL UNION NOTICES

## AUTOMOTIVE MACHINISTS 1546

### NOTICE OF ELECTION

The election of one trustee will be held at the Lodge of East Bay Automotive Machinists, Local 1546, located at 10260 MacArthur Boulevard, Oakland, on Tuesday, December 2, 1969. Polls will be open from 10 o'clock a.m. until 9 o'clock p.m.

Members who reside in outlying districts more than 25 miles from the balloting place, members who are ill and confined under orders from a physician, and members temporarily absent from the city or town where the election is to take place may make written request to the recording secretary of the Lodge not later than 10 days before the election. Within 24 hours after receipt of such request the recording secretary shall mail the ballot if the records of the Local Lodge indicate that the applicant is eligible to vote in the election.

Fraternally,  
LEVIN CHARLES,  
Rec. Sec.

Regular meetings of Lodge 1546 are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the hour of 8 p.m. in our building at 10260 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland

Fraternally,  
LEVIN CHARLES,  
Rec. Sec.

## S.F.-OAKLAND MAILERS 18

The next Regular Meeting of San Francisco-Oakland Mailers' Union, No. 18 will be held at De Anza Hotel, 233 West Santa Clara, San Jose, on Sunday afternoon November 16, 1969 at one o'clock.

Fraternally,  
ROCKY BENTLEY,  
Sec.

## MILLMEN'S UNION 550

The next Regular meeting of Millmen's Union 550 will be held on Friday, November 21, 1969, at 8 p.m. in Room 228-229, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland, California.

All members are URGED to attend their Union Meetings and participate in the transaction of its business.

Members are hereby reminded that when they pay their dues by mail they should send their Dues Book, Work Card and Self Addressed, STAMPED envelope, with their payment.

Members working under the Mill-Cabinet Master Agreement are reminded that effective the 1st of November their Dues are increased by 50 cents per month.

Fraternally,  
GEO. H. JOHNSON,  
Fin. Sec.

## AFSCME-PBMUD 444

The next Membership meeting will be held on Nov. 13, 1969 starting promptly at 7:30 p.m. There will be nomination of officers for 1970. All members are encouraged to attend these meetings, especially now for the upcoming election and also to participate in our inequity adjustment progress.

Fraternally,  
CHARLES E. TEIXEIRA,  
Sec.-Treas.

## HAYWARD CARPENTERS 1622

Attend your meetings! Know what's going on! Several things of special interest to you carpenters will be brought up in the next meetings!

Regular meetings are held the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 8 p.m., with a social following the meeting on the fourth Thursday.

Offices closed and no meeting on Thanksgiving Day.

The office of the financial secretary is open 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday; 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays, and 7:30 a.m. to noon on Fridays.

Steward meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. A stewards training program is held in conjunction with the stewards meeting.

Fraternally,  
KYLE MOON,  
Rec. Sec.

## STEEL MACHINISTS 1304

Regular meeting Thursday, November 20, at 8 p.m., Executive Board meets 6:30 p.m. Please attend.

Fraternally,  
DAVE ARCA,  
Rec. Sec.

## PLUMBERS & GAS FITTERS 444

The next regular meeting of Plumbers and Gas Fitters Local Union No. 444 will be held on Friday, December 5, 1969 in Hall A, on the first floor of the Labor Temple Building, at 8 p.m.

1. There will be the regular order of business.

The election of those members nominated as delegates to the State Pipe Trades Convention or any other conventions at the last membership meeting will be held in Room 229 on the second floor of the Labor Temple Building between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. on this same date.

### REMINDER

Also, on December 5, 1969, the Holiday checks will be passed out to the members from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Union business office, Room 212 of the Labor Temple Building.

Please make an earnest effort to attend your union meeting and participate in electing your new officers. This is a very important part of your union membership.

Fraternally,  
GEORGE A. HESS,  
Bus. Mgr. &  
Fin. Sec.-Treas.

## BARBERS 134

The regular November meeting will be held on November 20, 1969 in Room H of the Labor Temple, 23rd and Valdez Streets, Oakland. Dues and assessments are due on or before the first day of the month for which they are due. There will be a \$1 assessment on the second notice or bill.

Officers will be nominated at our November meeting. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday on the fourth Thursday of November, the meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20, 1969. Please take notice!

Fraternally,  
JACK M. REED,  
Sec.-Treas.

## CARPENTERS 36

The regular meetings for Carpenters Local Union 36 are held the first and third Thursdays of each month at 8460 Enterprise Way, Oakland, California 94621, at 8 p.m. Phone 569-3465.

The hours of the Financial Secretary's office are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Friday the office closes at 1 p.m.

Fraternally,  
ALLEN L. LINDER,  
Rec. Sec.

## AUTO & SHIP PAINTERS 1176

Auto, Marine & Specialty Painters 1176 meets on the first and third Tuesdays of every month in Room H, Labor Temple, 2315 Valdez Street, Oakland, at 8 p.m.

Fraternally,  
LESLIE K. MOORE,  
Bus. Rep.

## UNITED STEELWORKERS 1798

Executive Board Meeting, Friday, November 14, 1969, 8 p.m., Local Union Office, 3315 E. 14th St., Oakland, Calif.

Board of Trustees, 7 p.m. at Local Union Office.

Regular Membership Meeting, Friday, November 21, 1969, 8 p.m., Eagles Hall, 1228 36th Ave., Oakland, Calif.

The Regular Membership meeting will be held one week earlier due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Fraternally,  
EDWARD M. SOTO,  
Rec. Sec.

## SHEET METAL WORKERS 216

The regular meetings are every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Labor Temple.

Fraternally,  
ROBERT M. COOPER,  
Bus. Rep.

## ALAMEDA CARPENTERS 194

Carpenters Local 194 meets the First and Third Monday evenings of the month at 8:00 p.m. in the Veterans Memorial Building, located at 2201 Central Avenue, Alameda.

Refreshments are served following the first meeting of the month in the Canteen for all present. You are urged to attend your Local's meetings.

Fraternally,  
WM. "BILL" LEWIS,  
Rec. Sec.

## SERVICE EMPLOYEES 18

The November membership meeting of Service Employees' Local 18, which had been scheduled for Friday, November 28, has been cancelled because of the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

Fraternally,  
VICTOR C. BRANDT,  
Sec.-Bus. Rep.

## PRINTING SPECIALTIES 678

Meeting second Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. in Cannery Workers Hall, 492 O Street, Hayward, Calif.

Fraternally,  
JOSEPH GABRAL,  
Sec.

## IRON WORKERS 378

Our Regular Executive Board meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, 8 p.m.

Stewards meetings also are held the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 8 p.m.

Our regular membership meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month, 8 p.m.

Fraternally,  
BOB McDONALD,  
Bus. Agt.

## BERKELEY CARPENTERS 1158

Regular meetings are held the first and third Thursdays of each month at Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut St., Berkeley.

Be a good member. Attend union meetings. You may win a door prize.

Fraternally,  
NICK J. AFDAMO,  
Rec. Sec.

# True tax reform held opposite of Reagan's 'soak poor' plan

True tax reform for California would be almost the exact opposite of Governor Reagan's tax proposals, a California Labor Federation conference was told in Fresno last weekend.

Reagan's proposals would increase taxes on the poor and lower taxes for the rich, Michael R. Peevey, former research director for the federation, said in a scholarly analysis of the state's unwieldy tax structure.

This is the reverse of the federation's position which calls for placing much greater reliance on the income tax, with withholding to capture the millions of dollars that now escape collection; increased bank, corporation, inheritance and gift taxes; and reduced consumer taxes which "soak the poor" for 50 per cent of California's current tax revenues.

Peevey, who now is coordinator of Community Programs Institute of Industrial Relations at the University of California in Berkeley, urged the labor movement to become the catalyst for building a broad coalition to seek such reform.

Peevey and the federation

called for a general overhaul of the entire tax structure, in contrast to the makeshift changes proposed this spring by Reagan.

Peevey pointed out that Reagan proposed income tax exemptions which would increase the tax on those earning less than \$10,000 a year by \$47,100,000 while reducing taxes for those getting more than \$10,000 a year by \$47,900,000. Another Reagan proposal would increase income taxes by 156 per cent for families with income of less than \$10,000 and only 14 per cent for those with incomes of \$100,000.

Federation proposals contemplate income taxes providing more than 50 per cent of the state's general tax revenue instead of the present 21.5 per cent. Personal income taxes would be graduated up to at least 15 per cent, instead of the present 10 per cent.

Democratic State Senator Nicholas C. Petris of Alameda County told the conference in Fresno that "the first item of tax reform must be a shift of the enormous cost of education away from the local property taxpayer onto a statewide revenue base."

## from the EDITOR'S CHAIR

Continued from page 1

are most similar publications put out by big companies, not oil firms alone. No stockholder has complained at the expense as far as I know, however, and perhaps the splendid color shots and prettily-written words in such booklets keep them happy.

And I appreciate the good taste with which this particular book avoids unpleasant pictures. Of the more than 30 photos and drawings in its 20 pages on Santa Barbara, only one contains recognizable oil, even those showing Union cleaning up the gummy stuff which escaped from its undersea well.

★ ★ ★

THAT ONE photo was taken in 1948 and it appears under a short account of how oil has been seeping from the channel as far back as 1776, but not, I might venture to add, in the quantities which fouled the sea and the beaches from Union's well last winter.

However, I am still grateful to Union for sparing me photos like those which appeared in other magazines showing, for instance, a disgustingly dead oil-smeared bird.

Pictures of dead birds would be out of place in Union's booklet since the whole pitch is that, however foul things were last winter, they were all cleaned up by the Fourth of July.

★ ★ ★

IN CONTRAST, Union delights

me on page 15 of its magazine with a shapely sunbrowned girl in an orange and yellow bikini, next to some photos of the U.S. Navy which, while not offensive, could well have been left out in favor of more beach girls.

There's really nothing but good, good news in Union's piece. For another instance, take page 1's report that the directors in June boosted the common stock dividend to 40 cents a share.

★ ★ ★

THERE ARE other items relating to oil and oceans which Union doesn't mention.

Like the fact that if Congress cuts back the 27½ per cent "depletion allowance" and the oil industry's other tax breaks, which are what make the quite expensive undersea drilling operation profitable, oil companies may leave the ocean alone.

Then Santa Barbara's beaches should stay sparkling clean except, of course, for used beer cans and hot dog wrappers which seem to be endemic to all beaches.

★ ★ ★

THERE'S ONE problem. The Senate Finance Committee has already weakened the House's moderate cut in depletion and done other serious violence to tax justice.

So write your Senator and make your demand for real tax reform heard over the pitch of the big business lobbyists.

Santa Barbara needs you!

## Five locals back peace resolutions

A number of union locals in Alameda County have approved resolutions calling for immediate withdrawal of United States troops from Viet Nam or supporting the November 15 mobilization demonstration to end the war.

Office & Professional Employees 29 and the Berkeley Teachers 1078 did both. AFSCME 1695 UC Clerical, Technical & Professional Employees called for immediate troop withdrawal.

Other antiwar action resolutions were reported by the executive board of the Oakland Federation of Teachers, Amalgamated Clothing Workers 42 and Social Workers 535.

Troop withdrawal requests usually specified, as did Local 29, "that not another man shall be sent to replace them in Viet Nam."

# I AM MOVING

Effective \_\_\_\_\_ I am moving to a new address.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Union No. \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

CUT OUT AND MAIL TO:

EAST BAY LABOR JOURNAL  
1622 East 12th Street, Oakland, California 94606



# EAST BAY LABOR JOURNAL



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## Boycott is necessary for some basic rights

The San Francisco Chronicle makes an amazing statement in an editorial opposing a bill in Congress to stop the Defense Department's liberal buying of California table grapes. Labor is boycotting the grapes in support of its strike against growers who will not bargain for better wages and conditions for poorly-paid exploited farm workers.

"Any kind of boycott," says the Chronicle, "is an inherently objectionable tactic . . ."

Some critical comment on that statement is in order but first a few basic facts:

The Defense Department's own figures disclose that its table grape purchases have been considerably increased during the boycott. Those figures bear out the United Farm Workers' charge that it is Defense buying which has shored up grower resistance to unions and thereby prolonging the now more than four-year old California grape strike.

The boycott has had a substantial effect and the Farm Workers charge, were it not for the Defense Department, growers would have come around to recognizing the union and bargaining as practically every other employer is required to by law.

That's the grape boycott background. Now for the Chronicle—New York Democratic Congressman William F. Ryan's bill to forbid Defense buying of the boycotted crop, it says, is "a statutory boycott" and that's bad. Then it makes its declaration that any kind of boycott is "inherently objectionable."

Would the Chronicle please tell us to whom the boycott tactic is "objectionable?"

It certainly was not objectionable to the discriminated-against black people of Montgomery, Alabama, who paid the same fares as white people and were relegated to the back of the bus and forced to stand when that was full, even though there were empty seats in the "lily white" front section.

Under the late Martin Luther King's leadership, they boycotted segregated buses with a vengeance. Today, everyone with the price of a ride has equal rights aboard a bus in Montgomery. Is that objectionable?

Housewives in Denver and other areas rebelled at extortionately high food prices and simply boycotted the high-price markets. That brought prices down in a hurry and proved again that high prices are profit-caused. Was this break for the overburdened consumer "objectionable?"

The Chronicle's blanket condemnation of "any kind of boycott" could get it in trouble with some of our more patriotic elements, if the latter are sufficiently up on their history. That's because the American colonists staged a boycott of tea in protest at the tax put on it by the British without representation by the people who were to pay the tax. Was the Boston Tea Party "objectionable?"

The boycott throughout history is a weapon by which the weak and oppressed gain their rights. We are in favor of Congressman Ryan's bill and of the grape boycott and we hope that unions continue and increase their financial support to the Farm Workers until the boycott is no longer necessary.

Come to think of it, the Boston Tea Party WAS objectionable. To George III.

## Have you ever felt let down?

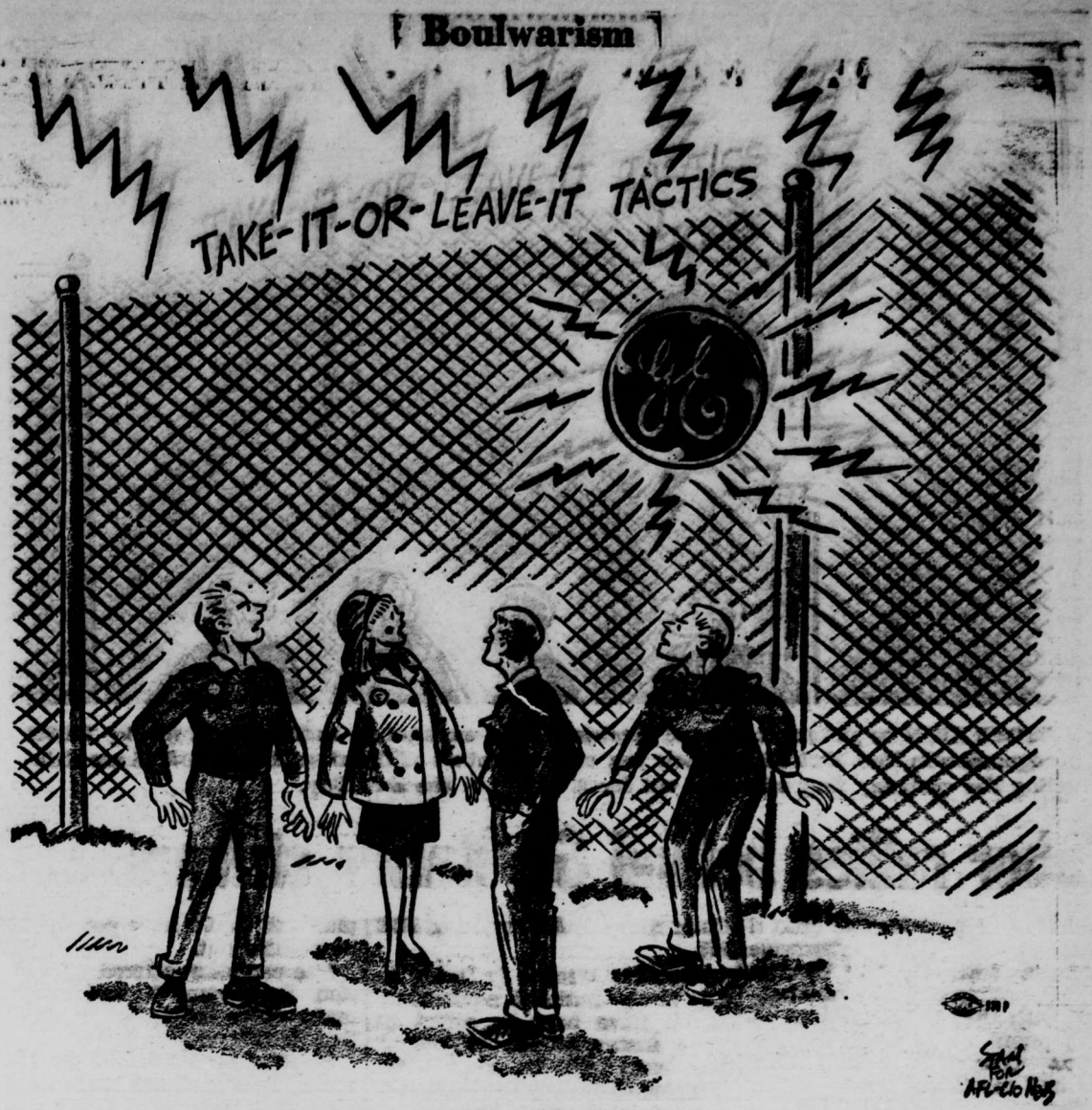
It's always embarrassing to a fellow who's trying to be an inspirational leader for his point of view to have unbiased experts challenge his version of the facts which he claims as a basis for that point of view.

Take the politician too many people voted for three years ago so he could take over as governor, raise your taxes and cut back various services the state had been rendering to its people. Fellow by the name of Reagan.

He has thundered mightily against the high cost of government, vowing to practice economy—and practicing a penny-pinching version of economy which to date has meant higher taxes, rather than saving money for the overtaxed taxpayer.

He promises more pennypinching in his next budget and then who should puncture his economy argument but Houston Flournoy, a fellow Republican who came in as state controller with Reagan in 1966. We're not broke, says he, but have a budget surplus of \$537,100,000 which, even deducting Reagan's state emergency nest egg, is a big \$92,000,000 more than his department of finance estimated last May.

The governor really may have reason to feel doublecrossed.



## Now--about why we're in politics

By FRED D. FLETCHER

Remember this the next time somebody asks why unions are mixed up in politics.

How would you feel if your employer tried to get a law to forbid your union to even demand some of its present security provisions the next time it negotiated a contract?

How'd you like to have a state senator tell you that "I come from a one-newspaper town, my publisher wants me to vote for it, and I'm going to vote for it?"

"It" being a legislative shotgun aimed at newspaper unions.

Or if a state assemblyman explained that he "had" to vote for it because "his" publisher said, if he didn't, "you'll never get your name in my paper again, even misspelled?"

Well, it's just happened, Charlie.

By the narrowest of margins, it didn't succeed. Senate Bill 1192 is dead for this year in Sacramento.

But, aided by that kind of brute force, the California Newspaper Publishers Association did ram it through the state senate and came perilously close to getting it by the assembly.

It took the full force of a hastily aroused state labor leadership, dextrous political work, and skilled parliamentary maneuvering—by, among others, Assembly Minority Leader Jess Unruh—to bottle up the bill in the closing days of the 1969 legislature.

You'll have to take my word on the direct quotes above.

But you can also take the word of Assemblywoman March K. Fong—now there's a Lady—that she, too, was "threatened with a loss of coverage of my legislative activities by a publisher in the East Bay" if she opposed the bill.

Which she did.

March K. Fong. Remember the name, and help her with votes and campaign money the next time she seeks election. And anti-labor-in-politics adherents are invited to make the most of the last sentence.

Senate Bill 1192? Well, ostensibly it would have made it illegal for the Typographical Un-

(At the last California Legislature session, a publisher supported measure, Senate Bill 1192, came perilously close to passing. Its threat and ultimate defeat, preventing state government intervention on management's side, are the subject of this article by San Francisco-Oakland Newspaper Guild Executive Secretary Fred D. Fletcher, reprinted from SFONG's Bay Guildsman).

ion to negotiate any more "reproduction" clauses or to enforce them if it had already negotiated them.

It's an immensely complicated subject with a long history. At any rate, the government has no business jumping into collective bargaining on the side of one party to devalue the economic weight in the other party's cards.

But Senate Bill 1192 also had a sly, little separate section that didn't deal with reproduction at all.

The Publisher's Association had a pretty lame explanation for that, and tried to make it

appear that it, too, applied only to the Typos, a lousy excuse at that.

Funny, it didn't say so. It specifically applied to "any collective bargaining agreement" involved in the "printing or publication of a newspaper." That's what it said.

All mumbo jumbo aside, labor lawyers who took it apart felt that the section could be interpreted to prevent a newspaper union from enforcing the subcontracting provisions of its contract.

All of our contracts, in fact all union contracts, contain explicit and/or implicit subcontracting bars. They just about have to, to have meaning.

But SB 1192, assuming constitutionality and the like, threatened to invalidate these protections in the California newspaper industry only.

The CNPA, which includes the employers who sign our contracts, tried by political means to do that to our contract.

Politics, anyone

## OPINIONS

YOU WRITE 'EM . . .  
WE RUN 'EM

### He remembers 1932

Editor, Labor Journal:

It seems our society and its values are sadly out of joint. We are informed that our economy is overheated and it needs cooling by an increase of unemployment. It is overheated mainly by the most shameful war in our history which with the twisted logic of our times our President opines may be "our finest hour."

It is overheated by a space program which consumes tens of billions of dollars while our cities rot, our schools and colleges are starved for funds to build and operate, our health institutions deteriorate and our people sicken and die.

It is overheated by the fastest and greatest acquisition of the industry, wealth, and resources of other peoples and nations by

our rich, powerful and privileged, ever known in history.

If increased unemployment and hunger is a condition and source of economic health and national wellbeing for all, then I lived through the halcyon days of our history from 1929 to the late thirties when we had 15,000,000 of unemployed, hunger, foreclosures on homes and farms. Need I list all the "blessings" of the period? In 1932, President Hoover hopefully saw employment "around the corner." Now President Nixon hopefully sees unemployment euphemistically called, "larger labor pool," around the corner. This may be the main difference in deciding the niche the two will occupy in the presidential hall of fame. They so nicely complement each other as economic experts.

WILLIAM REYNOLDS  
Berkeley





**VICTORY SIGN** by pickets at General Electric headquarters in New York City is their way of telling the company they will hold out for a

fair contract in nationwide strike by 147,000 members of 13 unions. Four hundred are striking in the East Bay.

## Labor rallies behind GE, Kaiser strikers

United support for two crucial strikes — one the nationwide struggle with General Electric and the other a homegrown battle with Kaiser Aluminum — was urged at this week's Alameda County Central Labor Council meeting.

Representatives of striking unions told the Labor Council one pressing need of strikers is jobs to help them hold out.

Unions which can offer work to strikers should channel them through the Central Labor Council, President Russell R. Crowell told the meeting.

Representing two striking GE unions were International Representative Ed Brown of the AFLCIO International Union of Electrical Workers, President Olie Martinson of the unaffiliated United Electrical Workers, President Wendell Stephens and

Chief Steward Al Daviau of IUE 853.

"General Electric is trying to destroy national agreements which have been in effect in some instances for 30 years," Martinson told the council. "It is trying to destroy the effectiveness of local union representation and wants new plants excluded from agreements, making their employees fight as long as it took to get these contracts."

Last GE offer to the 13 unions in coordinated bargaining was a "take it or leave it" offer October 7 delivered to caucusing union negotiators by a messenger boy, Brown said.

It is an ostensible 20 to 45-cent per hour bid, but in one Oakland shop just three people would have qualified for more than 20 cents and in a San Jose

plant all would have got the 20, he pointed out.

The company offered no pension improvement and would make other fringe raises effective in 1971 and 1972, he noted.

Steelworkers Sub-district Director Tom McGuire told of the nine-week struggle of Steelworkers 7631 for a first-time contract at the Kaiser Aluminum can plant at Union City and warned that Kaiser's insistence on scheduling straight time weekend work was a threat to all Bay Area workers.

The strikers need jobs, he stressed.

Council delegates took up a \$52.65 collection for the Kaiser strikers.

Crowell urged every union officer to make a strong effort to refer strikers to any available jobs.

## Unions asked to make their Man of Year nominations

Continued from page 1

tive committee meeting to consider them and the Central Labor Council by its December 12 executive committee session.

The person to be honored will be the individual whom the two executive committees find to have made the greatest contribution to Alameda County organ-

ized labor this year and, despite the event's title, may be a man or woman.

Proceeds of the labor-sponsored affair will help finance Alameda County COPE in its crucial 1970 election activities for candidates and issues.

De Christofaro urged unions to nominate potential honorees "so that the two council's executive committees may make their selection from the widest possible field."

And he added, "with your support and participation, the Labor's Man of the Year dinner will become labor's most successful social function and labor political action fund-raising event ever initiated in the Bay Area."

## Slowdown on U.S. job cuts urged

The Alameda County Central Labor Council this week urged California Senators and East Bay Congressmen to vote to hold back big government military cutbacks until new jobs are found for displaced workers or new uses for facilities.

Military cutbacks ordered by President Nixon's defense secretary Melvin R. Laird, is aimed at cutting back some \$609,000,000 in spending and is estimated to cost more than 2,000 civilian jobs at Bay Area military facilities alone.

## GE strike support rally set Monday

Continued from page 1

threat to all unions was supported by a U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York in a nine-year-old case. The court ruled that G.E.'s method in 1960, commonly known as Boulwarism, is not bargaining at all, and consequently illegal.

The court went further, saying:

"Indeed, such conduct amounts to a declaration on the part of the company that not only the union, but the process of collective bargaining itself may be dispensed with."

Labor charged G.E. is following the same illegal tactics now, telling the union involved that the company is "right up to the limit of what industry can do" without causing more inflation.

### PRICE CONSPIRACY

But labor took little stock in G.E.'s pose as an inflation fighter, remembering that the company played a dominant part in a multi-billion dollar electrical industry price-fixing, monopoly conspiracy.

So flagrant was price-gouging and bid-rigging to keep prices high that a federal judge in 1961 sentenced a group of high ranking corporation executives to jail as well as heavily fining a number of companies.

Secretary of Labor George Shultz said the company was feeling the effects of the administration's anti-inflationary policy and that its "profits will be squeezed by a large wage increase."

Tell 'em you saw it in the East Bay Labor Journal!

## Sixth of PG&E's big rate bid justified, says Federation

The Pacific Gas & Electric Company is able to justify less than one-sixth of the \$23,000,000 increase it has asked on gas rates to consumers, the California Labor Federation told the state Public Utilities Commission.

Summerlong PUC hearings, at which labor and consumer spokesmen opposed the request, closed last month. In a 24-page brief, prepared after lengthy analysis, the Federation asked the PUC to chop PG&E's request back to \$4,000,000.

The Federation covered all bases, from the giant utility's request for a 7.5 per cent rate of return for its gas department to its and PUC staff recommendations that it be allowed to pass its share of the federal surtax along to consumers.

Also under Federation attack was PG&E's proposed rate spread which would lay more than 90 per cent of the burden of the rate increase on homeowners and other general customers and charge big business on 10 per cent.

PG&E's stockholders, not its customers, should pay much of PG&E sales, advertising and promotion expenses, the Federation said.

And it urged the PUC to return to its customers all of the \$1,200,000 refund due from its supplier, El Paso Natural Gas Company.

The Federation recommended that the gas department rate of return should be 6.85 per cent instead of the 7.5 per cent PG&E wants. This, it pointed out, would mean "earning on an average

common equity of about 10.7 per cent."

The PUC staff has recommended a rate of return ranging from 6.95 to 7.25 per cent, with a midpoint of 7.1, only four-tenths of 1 per cent less than PG&E's demand.

## Kaiser can strike in its ninth week; does Edgar know?

Mediation sessions continued this week in the nine week old strike of Steelworkers 7631 against the Kaiser Aluminum can plant at Union City.

The 160 strikers are seeking a Monday-Friday work week, with overtime for weekend work and Bay Area wages.

The company has been insisting on a midweek start of schedules so that no premium would be paid shifts working Saturday and Sunday. It has also clung to the same wage scales as are paid at its plants in Jacksonville, Florida, and Houston, Texas, as much as 50 cents an hour below rates in the Bay Area.

In leaflets distributed at the recent Kaiser International Golf tournament, the union said:

"Edgar Kaiser, winner of the Hoover award for humanitarianism, cannot possibly be aware of how his managers at the Kaiser can plant in Union City are treating their own employees . . .

"We think Edgar Kaiser would settle this thing if he knew."

The union members struck September 12 seeking a first contract.

## Hospital pact averts strike

Continued from page 1

dues checkoff at member hospitals of both employer associations.

Similarly, arbitration on discharges, already in the Associated Hospitals agreement, was added to the Affiliated Hospitals contract.

New benefits in the agreements include a 20-cent per hour differential both for swing and graveyard shift, replacing former 10 and 15-cent differentials in the first year and a 25-cent differential for employees working different shifts in a week. All differentials will be increased 5 cents in the second year.

Spouses are covered under health and welfare and dental plans and management will pay \$10 per year per employer on the payroll each January 15, into an apprentice and journeyman training fund, or \$20 if an apprentice is not employed for each five journeymen.

Attending the total of 23 hours of negotiations Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of last

week in the San Francisco Labor Council headquarters were Secretaries Richard K. Groulx of the Alameda County Central Labor Council and George W. Johns of the San Francisco council.

## First Upgrade students reach journeyman status

Continued from page 1

openings for 43 recruits, said Fred D. Payne, director of the project.

Electricians, Painters and Sheet Metal workers are also participating in the project which is supported by Ford Foundation and federal funds.

To get into the program a workman must be at least half as proficient as the average journeyman in his craft.

"Often all that is needed is to get these men off the little backyard jobs and on to first class construction projects," Payne said.

Once accepted by a review committee of trade union and contractor representatives a student begins on the job training at journeyman's pay, which is sometimes twice his former non-union pay.

Project Upgrade reimburses the contractor for most of the difference between a figure corresponding to the trainee's graded proficiency and the journeyman scale. This is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor which also pays a journeyman instructor at foreman's wages.

The review committee evaluates the trainee's progress every 90 days until he is finally qualified as a journeyman and the committee recommends his entrance into the appropriate union.

## Muskie at Cohelan testimonial tonight

United States Senator Edmund S. Muskie will speak tonight, Friday, November 14 at a \$25 a plate dinner honoring Alameda County Congressman Jeffery Cohelan at Goodman's Hall, Jack London Square, Oakland.

Muskie, who was last year's Democratic Vice Presidential candidate, will speak on the crises of the cities and of alienated youth. The affair has the endorsement of the Alameda County Central Labor Council and reservations, as long as available, may be obtained from writing the Jeffery Cohelan Testimonial Dinner Committee, P.O. Box 2040, Oakland, or by phoning 451-4774.